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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,903	08/09/2001	Rajko Milovanovic	TI-30847	6493

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EXAMINER

ZHEN, LI B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2194

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/925,903

Applicant(s)

MILOVANOVIC, RAJKO

Examiner

Li B. Zhen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1 – 5 are pending in the current application.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 25, 2005 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1 – 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,854,007 to Hammond.**

5. As to claim 1, Hammond teaches an electronic communications system [col. 4, lines 29 – 47], a method for automated follow-up of a request [sending a follow-up message to one or more recipients; col. 5, lines 45 – 61] comprising the steps of:

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generating a request of a task to be completed by users [review of the message by a recipient; col. 4, lines 55 – 67] at one or more receivers [Message Sender routine receives an electronic message to be sent to one or more recipients, receives message tracking information for the recipients; col. 8, lines 46 – 63] with a deadline at a sender [update the Message Tracking Table entry with the specified Review Reminder Time for the message as well as any specified Review Reminder Options. The routine then continues at step 337 to set a Review Reminder Timer for the recipient that will begin when the message is sent, Fig. 3B; col. 9, lines 24 – 42] and recording that request at the sender location [update the Message Tracking Table entry with the specified Review Reminder Time for the message; col. 9, lines 25 – 42; col. 6, lines 56 – 65] indicating deadline [Review Reminder Time for the message; col. 9, lines 24 - 42] and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location [step 337 to set a Review Reminder Timer for the recipient that will begin when the message is sent, Fig. 3B; col. 9, lines 36 – 42] to determine if a request has been completed by the deadline [Message Receipt Tracker routine receives notifications (in the illustrated embodiment, receipts) related to sent electronic messages (e.g., that a message was delivered or reviewed); col. 10, lines 5 – 23 and lines 37 – 43];

sending that request with a deadline message to one or more receivers [message deliver information could be stored with the message (e.g., as a header or as attributes of a message object); col. 3, lines 30 – 43];

receiving the request and deadline at the one or more receivers [col. 3, lines 30 – 43; routine sends the message to the designated recipient and updates the Message Tracking Table with the send time for the message, col. 9, lines 43 – 63];

determining at the receivers when the requested task is done [after a message has been accessed, activities such as scrolling a text window or selecting text may indicate that the message is being reviewed; col. 5, lines 17 – 44]; and

sending notice to sender when request is completed [recipient computer systems provide receipts when messages are received and when messages are reviewed; col. 5, lines 16 – 45] and the done notice is recorded at the sender location [After receiving notification of message delivery or review, the Message Receipt Tracker stores appropriate information from the notification in the Message Tracking Table; col. 5, lines 16 – 45].

6. As to claim 2, Hammond teaches the sender determines if a done notice is received and request is completed before the deadline and generates a message to the one or more receivers if it has not been completed and the done notice has not been received by the deadline date [routine continues at step 520 to determine if the Review Reminder Time period has expired. If so, the routine continues at step 525 to send a reminder message as indicated by the Review Reminder Options; col. 11, lines 6 – 22].

7. As to claim 3, Hammond teaches the sender automatically sends a message to the one or more receivers if the deadline date has not been met [send a reminder message; col. 11, lines 6 – 22].

8. As to claim 4, Hammond teaches the sender also automatically sends a second deadline date [after a time period expires, the routine sets new timers if the time period continues to apply; col. 10, lines 48 – 63] with a second message if a deadline has not been met and sets a second follow-up reminder [routine also updates the Review Reminder Records in the Message Tracking Table to reflect the date and time that the reminder message was sent; col. 11, lines 6 – 22].

9. As to claim 5, Hammond teaches the sender determines if a done request is completed and a done notice has been received before the second deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed by the second deadline date [routine continues at step 545 to determine if there are more entries in the Message Tracking Table. If so, the routine continues at step 550 to select the next entry in the Message Tracking Table, and then returns to step 510. If it was instead determined in step 535 that there are not more entries in the Message Tracking Table, the routine continues at step 555 to determine whether to continue processing the Message Tracking Table from the beginning. If so, the routine returns to step 505; col. 11, lines 38 – 50].

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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11. In applicant's response dated 2/25/2005, applicant submits that the term "request" refers to a request to do some task [p. 3, lines 9 – 10] and this is not taught or suggest by the Nielson reference that is about warning a sender of a message that the receiver has not opened the mail in time [p. 4, lines 1 – 5]. Generally a task is defined as an assigned piece of work often to be finished within a certain time [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition]. Examiner was unable to find a definition or examples of a task in the specification; therefore, the term "task" is given its ordinary meaning. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant and submits that opening an email message is a task because opening an email message requires work on the part of the receiver. In the rejections currently presented, examiner maps "a task" to "review of the message" [col. 4, lines 55 – 67 of Hammond]. Hammond teaches that reviewing a message requires the recipient to perform activities [work] such as scrolling a text window or selecting text [col. 5, lines 17 – 44]. By sending a message to one or more recipients, a request for the message to be reviewed is implied. When the one or more recipients review the message, the task of reviewing the message is performed. Since applicant did not define what a task is or provide examples of task, the term is given its ordinary meaning, which reads on reviewing a message.

### ***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,708,202 to Shuman et al. teaches a form for displaying an electronic message including an information object that highlights important information about the message.

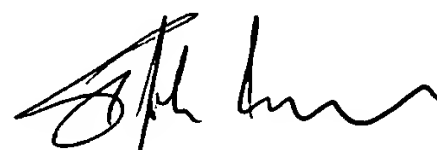
13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Li B. Zhen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2194

lbz



ST. JOHN COURTENAY III  
PRIMARY EXAMINER